# MONTEREY NEWS

**October 2022 Est. 1970**
**Vol. LII · Number 10**


Pick up at: the library (in and outside), outside town hall, transfer station

*Community chorus concert, led by Oren Rosenthal, on Thursday, September 22. See page 8.* *Photo by Maureen Banner*

At this point, with merging school districts with Berkshire Hills on the table, I feel it is time to get more involved.
Kim Alcantara-School Comm. page 4

The Regional School District Planning Board (RSDPB) is spearheading educational visioning.
8-Town Regional School page 5

Good things can still happen in this world when you least expect it, even in the great game of baseball.
Letters- Goodness Shines Through page 12

I will explore all things highway and let you know about upcoming projects that are in the planning stages.
Highway News page 18

Like the lives of monarchs and voters, the life of a democracy is both fragile and strong.
Here's a Thought page 19

How fun it would be if we had a permanent pavilion (where the rented tent sits) to offer many more outdoor concerts and programs.
Letters-Community Concerts page 10

Have you ever wondered about "Old Center" and why the village of Monterey is here?
The answer is literally under the library.
Mills of Monterey page 21

Anyone who has met our red-spotted newt could only call it lovely and a marvel. This creature is handsome, brilliant, fascinating.
Red-spotted newts page 20

Steve Snyder

Scott's previous experience should help us to continue to efficiently serve the town, and having a third thoughtful active member has already shown itself to be useful for the town.
In My View-Promising Start page 2

These clinics are at no cost to you, although it is asked that you please bring your insurance information to help support the program.
Vaccination Clinics page 8

On September 9, town clerk Terry Walker filed a lawsuit in US District Court against the Town of Monterey and two former select board members.
Town Clerk's Lawsuit page 9

The matching gift challenge was met five days after it was announced. As of this printing, contributions have reached $850,000.
Roadside 2.0 page 14

Peaceful proximity to creatures of all sorts seemed a rare privilege, perhaps unique. I realized how common an experience it could be if one is attuned to it.
Letters-A "Wild" Experience page 10

It often seems that climate change is too big, too long in the making, too slow to change, too pervasive and stubborn to compete.
Renewable Energy Group page 6

The Pantry PickUp marks its two-year anniversary this month, providing year-round weekly food supplies to those who need them.
Pantry PickUp page 9

## Special Town Meeting
### Saturday, October 15

The select board has approved a warrant calling for a special town meeting on Saturday, October 15, at 1:30 p.m., at the firehouse pavilion.

There are four articles on the warrant. The first three deal with financial issues. The fourth is a language amendment from the May annual town meeting dealing with the description of a proposed truck purchase.

The financial articles as they appear on the warrant are as follows:

ARTICLE 1. To see if the Town will vote to transfer the sum of $29,580 or any other sum from Free Cash to the Highway Operations Storm Damage Account to clean up storm damage at Bidwell Park, or take any other action relative thereto.

The Finance Committee supports approving this article 3 - 0.

The Select Board supports approving this article 3 - 0.

ARTICLE 2. To see if the Town will vote to transfer the sum of$7,237.31 or any other sum from Free Cash to the Litigation Fees & Expenses Account for legal fees in appealing the Hume v. Monterey case and to cover the town's deductible with regard to potential new litigation or take any other action relative thereto.

The Finance Committee supports approving this article 3 - 0.

The Select Board supports approving this article 2 - 1.

ARTICLE 3. To see if the Town will vote to transfer from Free Cash the sum of

$10,001.66 or any other sum to pay for a FY22 bills received after the deadline to pay, or take any other action relative thereto.

This will require a 9/10 vote.

The Finance Committee supports approving this article 3 - 0.

The Select Board supports approving this article 3 - 0.

The *Monterey News* is published monthly by The Monterey News Inc, PO Box 9, Monterey, MA 01245-0009.

## In My View
### The Select Board's Promising Start

This select board's agenda since my election in May has been a busy one. Justin and I, and now Scott, have worked hard to update policies and try to get the town on a better footing. As always, meetings are open, and they are recorded and available for viewing on YouTube (channel "Town of Monterey, MA Board & Committee Meetings") which is organized by date so that anyone who wants to tune in and see what actually happened can get accurate information.

Here are a few of the things we have accomplished:

• We drafted and put into practice rules of order for SB meetings. Hopefully those who have attended our meetings have found them a reasonable forum for discussion of town matters. We welcome public input and participation, as long as it is topical and respectful. I am proud to be working with Justin, who has shown himself to be a very competent chair and runs thoughtful and organized meetings. He even usually manages to keep us on track as we wade through our lengthy agendas.

• We drafted a "Code of Conduct for Public Officials in Monterey" which outlines how Monterey's public officials should comport themselves, and emphasizes that they need to serve the public interest. It includes the major overarching roles of the select board (signed May 25).

• We adopted a nine-point plan to accomplish the goals suggested in the Greene & Hafer report, and have enacted most of them (signed June 1).

• We interviewed and hired new town counsel. So far our working relationship with Ms. Brewer of Miyares and Harrington has been very positive, and she is knowledgeable and skilled.

• We adopted a policy and procedure for contacting town counsel, as well as a policy to follow up important meetings with a written letter or memo to clarify and document mutual understanding of the meeting.

• We found a mediation practice and used their services.

• We developed an organizational chart for the town. We made human resources an independent office, so that all town employees can be fairly overseen and reviewed.

• We hired a new human resources director, Sophia Bletsos, who serves the town six hours per week, begun as of July 5. All employees were immediately notified of her role and provided contact information for her should they need her services.

She is helping us revamp personnel policies (including but not limited to procedures for disputes between employees), the personnel manual, and job descriptions, as well as to institute annual reviews for all town employees including department heads and the town administrator. We have already updated our sexual harassment policy and are now working on an overall harassment policy, policies concerning part-time employees, and a professional conduct policy. Sophia is a welcome addition to our staff.

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• We are investigating leadership training opportunities for the select board and the town administrator. Sadly, quality services at a reasonable cost are difficult to find. The police chief, fire chief, and director of operations have long participated in opportunities offered by their professional organizations.

• The SB has advertised for a select board secretary and is in the process of interviewing potential candidates, hopefully by the time this goes to print we will have a new secretary.

• We have developed an excellent working relationship with the finance committee and have already implemented a number of auditor-recommended policies, including a purchasing policy and an updated annual operating budget process policy, and are now working on a much more comprehensive capital plan. Having a thoughtful, dedicated, and talented group of people working together respectfully to accomplish both long- and short-range financial planning for the town is a huge asset. Responsible management requires planning for the future. It is not prudent to wait for your roof to collapse before planning for its replacement.

Looking forward, there are a lot of issues on the select board's horizon, some of them important matters we hope that members of the town will take some time to ponder, and few of them relevant to the recent acrimony. Of course, there are the normal yearly calendar items like the budget process. But here are some of the things I see on our horizon:

• Our joint efforts with the finance committee to more fully flesh out a thorough capital plan.

• How the town should proceed regarding the 8-Town Regional School District Planning Board's proposal to merge the Southern Berkshire and Berkshire Hills high schools. (See page 5–6.)

• How the town will handle the expected rise in solid waste disposal costs as the state prepares to close the last two Massachusetts landfills.

• Participation in the planning board's master plan process.

• What options the Town has to try to create housing options to attract and keep young families to ensure a healthy future for the Town.

• The first ever annual evaluation of all town employees.

I'd like to thank Scott Jenssen for stepping in as the third select board member. His previous experience should help us to continue to efficiently serve the town, and having a third thoughtful active member has already shown itself to be useful for the town.

We try to deal expeditiously with matters that come before us from both employees and townspeople. Our goal is truly to serve the town. Some difficult and contentious issues remain before us, but I think we are off to a pretty good start. Change is not always easy or quick. Let's try to be the change we want to see, positive forces working together, even when we disagree, to make this town strong, healthy and a wonderful place to live.

—Susan Cooper
Select board member

*Editor's Note:* In My View *provides individual select board members an opportunity to communicate their thoughts about town affairs—reflections, opinions, and updates on topics of their choice. The views expressed are solely those of the writer, and are not meant to reflect the views of the full select board.*

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my pale arms before me,
as I swim the jade green lake,
appear, disappear
—Laura Denman

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## Candidate Statement
### Kim Alcantara, School Committee

My name is Kim Alcantara (Jeffries). I am a candidate for election as Monterey's school committee representative. I have been a resident of Monterey for seventeen years and co-own a business with my husband here. I currently have three children enrolled in Southern Berkshire Regional School District (SBRSD), and one graduate of Berkshire Hills School District. I feel this gives me a unique perspective having been involved with both districts.

During my children's time in the southern Berkshires, from New Marlborough Central School, Undermountain, and finally Mount Everett, I have been closely involved with the school community.

My time at New Marlborough Central included being both a member of Monterey-New Marlborough PTA and the secretary. I was also a chaperone, a volunteer, and a fund raiser. When my children started their next steps at Undermountain and Mount Everett, I volunteered time with the drama department, helping with costumes and sets.

I have sat through many school committee meetings, and have agreed and disagreed with the things the committee has done. At this point, with merging school districts with Berkshire Hills on the table, I feel it is time to get more involved.

One of the things I strongly believe in is bringing Vocational Tech back to SBRSD, whether on our own campus or at a new school. I also feel it is important to encourage the programs recently established by our district that partner with both Berkshire Community College and Simon's Rock.

Lastly, I would like to see more parental involvement and community outreach by the school committee, so people who cannot attend meetings can be more involved on a personal level.

I look forward to representing the people of Monterey and getting their voices heard.

—Kim Alcantara

## Letters
### School Committee Withdrawal

Hello, Monterey,

I've come to the difficult decision to withdraw my candidacy as Monterey's school committee representative. Although you will see my name on the ballot, I am no longer available to do this work as anything other than a member of the public.

In the year since I was appointed to office, I've truly learned to appreciate all of the work the school committee does and the genuine commitment required to make thoughtful decisions that result in incredible outcomes at the scholastic level. I've established some really good working relationships with folks all over southern Berkshire county, and have witnessed the complexity of navigating questions ranging from the public health practices that arose as a result of the pandemic to the beginning of the early college program that now lives within Mt Everett's walls.

My work with the SBRSD school committee, which also necessitates a commitment to be on the RSDPB/ 8 towns committee (which is looking into creating a new district) has been tremendously rewarding and educational, and I convinced myself, in error, that I could continue to take on the rigorous demands of both committees and all of the work associated with that.

Many community members showed up for my call to action when I needed signatures to get on the ballot, and I deeply appreciate your vote of confidence.

Unfortunately, as I look at my priorities—family and work—the reality is that my responsibilities to both have only increased in the past few months with no end to that in the near future. My reality is that there simply are not enough hours in the day to also show up at 100% to two committees and the subcommittee work of both groups.

When my core obligations shift, I sincerely hope to find the best way to show up for this our community. Until then, know that I will be paying attention to all things school and district merger within my capacity as a parent and community member.

—Laura Rodriguez

# 8-Town Regional School District Planning Board

*Editor's Note: Representatives from eight towns (Monterey, Sheffield, New Marlborough, Egremont, Alford, Great Barrington, Stockbridge, and West Stockbridge) have been working to consider how to restructure the Southern Berkshire Regional and Berkshire Hills school districts into a single preK–12 district. Both districts face declining enrollment and difficult financial situations. The two high schools have different needs with Mt. Everett being much newer and Monument Mountain in need of substantial renovations.*

*Monterey is currently represented on this board by our school committee representative, Laura Rodriquez, who was appointed last year to fill a vacancy, and Don Coburn and Jon Sylbert who were appointed by the select board. Each of the eight towns must have three members, one of whom is the elected school committee member of the town.*

*Recently RSDPB outreach connected with the* Monterey News *so that this planning board's updates could be shared with the residents of Monterey.*

*For more information, the RSDPB has a very informative website, 8towns.org.*

## July/August 2022 Update

As earlier reported in April, the 8-Town Regional School District Planning Board (RSDPB) voted to further research and develop the merger model recommended by its research team—merging the Berkshire Hills Regional School District and the Southern Berkshire Regional School District into a single preK–12 district, maintaining all existing elementary and middle schools as they are, but creating a new merged 9–12 high school to be built on the Great Barrington campus. Since that vote, the RSDPB has:

• engaged an outside transportation consultant to study in more detail the transportation options of a proposed merged district, with particular focus on travel times and cost;

• engaged the Massachusetts Association of Regional Schools (MARS) to outline possible options for a new eight-town regional school district agreement; and

• begun laying the groundwork for educational visioning for elementary, middle, and high school, including identifying Career Vocational Technical Education (CVTE) programs that could be offered at a new, merged high school.

In addition, the RSDPB has been heavily engaged in additional community outreach, including:

• meeting with the select boards and finance committees of all eight member towns to present the RSDPB's work and plans and to respond to questions;

• two remote, interactive "Community Talks" held in June; and

• in-person presentations at the Sheffield Senior Center and the Great Barrington Rotary.

We had good, productive conversations at all of these meetings. We heard a lot of support, a lot of concern, and a fair amount of misinformation.

## September 2022 Update

The Regional School District Planning Board (RSDPB) is spearheading educational visioning.

We will invite faculty/staff from both districts, as well as other key stakeholders, including students, community members, employers, and parents, to participate in educational visioning. We feel it is important that this work include a range of perspectives and voices.

The goal of the educational visioning will be to:

• consider options for how a combined eight-town district would deliver educational programming;

• create opportunities for the two districts to learn more about each other; and

• build a shared sense of ownership in creating an educational vision for an eight-town region.

The work will be organized by the following grade spans: (i) elementary grades (prekindergarten–Grade 4); (ii) middle grades (Grades 5–8); (iii) high school (Grades 9–12); and (iv) Career Vocational Technical Education and Career Pathways (CVTE).

*8-Town Update cont. on page 6*

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*8-Town Update cont. from page 5*

Because the model under consideration would involve no change to grades preK–8, the aim of the elementary and middle grades working groups will be to better understand and explore how the schools, grade level teams, and teachers are approaching teaching and learning now. In doing so, similarities, differences, and possibilities will be considered.

The high school and CVTE groups will focus on building an educational vision for a shared/new high school, looking at programs and courses, instructional approaches, and student experiences that would engage and challenge all students.

The RSDPB views educational visioning as an important part of providing an opportunity for the two districts (the eight towns) to design and build together a new district with common purpose. Neither district would be absorbed into the other; rather, the goal would be to create a new district with a new identity that would be the source of eight-town community pride. The work of each group will be guided by a steering committee that will research and evaluate possibilities, culminating in a convening that will include a broad representation of school and community stakeholders.

In addition to our educational visioning work, the RSDPB continues its deeper dive into transportation and other issues requiring further research, work on a possible eight-town regional school district agreement, community outreach, and advocacy to our state representatives for financial and other support. We encourage those interested to attend our board and subcommittee meetings and visit our website at 8towns.org.

We welcome your thoughts, and we encourage your active participation in this important initiative.

Get the facts. Be informed. You decide

—Mary Nash
Regional School District Planning Board

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## Monterey Renewable Energy Working Group

The REWG will apply this month to the select board for a $15,000 grant from the pool of funds ($276,000) made available to the town by the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA). Our application is based on the urgency of addressing climate change by remediating the harms of fossil fuel energy consumption. In broad terms, public health is harmed by continuing to burn the fossil fuels that increase global warming by adding to atmospheric carbon. Business as usual is killing us.

The problem has long been understood, but individuals, businesses, and governments have been slow to act. In the hierarchy of looming human crises, numerous dramatic emergencies—war, political upheaval, social injustice—shoulder and shout their way to the front of the line. It often seems that climate change is too big, too long in the making, too slow to change, too pervasive and stubborn to compete.

Perhaps that is beginning to change. Residential solar has taken hold in Monterey, with the number of installations growing in recent years. Now new federal legislation has expanded support for clean energy. As these efforts gain momentum, navigating the regulations and incentives for optimum cost efficiency becomes more complex. The modest ARPA grant we seek will help provide the necessary expertise to plan for rooftop or ground mount solar panels for town buildings, and any further solar facilities appropriate for Monterey.

The select board has been careful to refer applicants to eligibility standards enumerated in the forty-four-page "Overview of the Final Rule," from which we quote:

"The Coronavirus State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds may be used to make necessary investments … to address the consequences of deferred maintenance in drinking water systems and removal, management, and treatment of sewage and stormwater, *along with additional resiliency measures needed to adapt to climate change.*" (Emphasis added.)

We take this as an endorsement of the eligibility of our proposal, and hope that the select board agrees.

—Peter Murkett, Chairperson
Monterey Renewable Energy Working Group

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## Monterey Tax Dollars at Work in Lake Garfield

Although it's been a relatively quiet summer for monthly updates from the Lake Garfield Working Group (LGWG), good things have been moving forward to help maintain the beautiful, clear waters and overall health of Lake Garfield. Two areas of LGWG focus, namely, the procurement of acceptable methods to control the growth of the invasive, aquatic weed Eurasian water milfoil (EWM), and securing required regulatory compliance for this activity, proceeded according to plan following the approval of funding by town residents at the annual town meeting in May of this year.

For more than five years, Monterey has utilized the services of scuba divers to remove and properly dispose of EWM from the bottom of Lake Garfield. This method has and continues to be an important component of the overall effort to control invasive aquatic weed in the lake. Prior to the expenditure of town approved funding for this purpose, the application of this aquatic control method was subject to the bidding requirements of the State of Massachusetts. Monterey followed the procurement requirements and awarded a one-year contract for diver assisted suction harvesting (DASH) to New England Aquatic Services, LLC during this past July. Concurrent with the bidding and award of DASH services, Monterey was also in the process of obtaining regulatory approval for DASH to proceed this fall.

During the pandemic, the state extended existing regulatory approvals for projects that would potentially impact the areas of interest identified in the Massachusetts Wetlands Protection Act (WPA) including the lands underwater, namely, the bottom of Lake Garfield, and other similar bodies of water. The method of diver assisted suction harvesting to control the growth of EWM is such an activity subject to the WPA. The Monterey Conservation Commission, and other conservation commissions throughout the Commonwealth, is responsible for the administration and enforcement of the WPA. Since the existing regulatory extension period for DASH came to an end during August, Monterey was required to seek an extension of the prior approval for another twelve months. This regulatory extension was granted by the Monterey Conservation Commission on September 8, which set the stage for DASH to proceed as quickly as possible thereafter.

Scuba divers commenced the removal and disposal of Eurasian water milfoil during the week of September 19. More updates of aquatic weed control work and water quality monitoring of Lake Garfield will be reported in the November issue of the *Monterey News*. Enjoy the fall season and stay tuned for more updates.

—Dennis Lynch
Monterey Lake Garfield Working Group

## Announcement from Rawson Brook Farm

Susan Sellew, owner of Rawson Brook Farm, and Hannah Bracken, chief assistant, have decided that the 2022 season will be their final year making Monterey chèvre. Susan has been at it for thirty-nine years! We will make cheese as usual until the end of this production season, which is mid-December.

—Susan Sellew

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PLAY GROUP
South Berkshire Kids Playgroup
Monterey Library

**Thursdays,** 10 to 11 a.m.

Join us for free play, storytime, songs and more!! Best for families with children ages birth to 5. This program is free and open to the community, no registration required.

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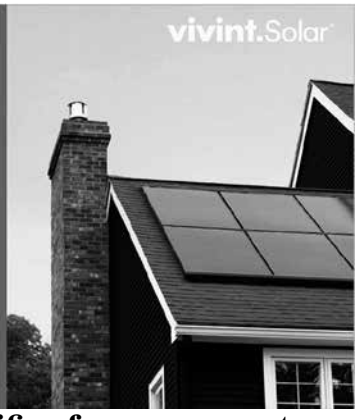

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## Upcoming Vaccination Clinics
### Flu and New Pfizer Bivalent COVID Booster

The Southern Berkshire Public Health Collaborative has scheduled their fall vaccination clinics, which will include both regular and senior doses of flu and the newly-approved Pfizer bivalent Covid booster. Appointments can be made for either or both by going to home.color.com/vaccine/register/tritown.

These clinics are at no cost to you, although it is asked that you please bring your insurance information to help support the program.

The Southern Berkshire Public Health Collaborative serves the towns of Alford, Great Barrington, Lee, Lenox, Monterey, Mount Washington, New Marlborough, Otis, Sandisfield, Sheffield, Stockbridge, and Tyringham.

TriTown Health Vaccination Clinic schedule

| | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 10/04 | Stockbridge | Tues | 1pm - 3pm | Town Hall | 6 Main St |
| 10/04 | Stockbridge | Tues | 10am -12pm | Heaton Court | 5 Pine Street |
| 10/05 | Lee | Wed | 9:30am -11:30am | Hyde Place | 46 Railroad St |
| 10/11 | Alford | Tues | 10am -12pm, (Homebound1-3) | Town Hall | 5 Alford Center Rd |
| 10/12 | Tyringham | Wed | 10am -12pm | Town Hall | 116 Main Road |
| 10/17 | Gt. Barrington | Mon | 10am -12pm, (Homebound1-3) | Claire Teague Senior Center | 917 S. Main St |
| 10/24 | Gt. Barrington | Mon | 10am -12pm | Town Hall | 334 Main St |
| 10/25 | Monterey | Tues | 10am -12pm, (Homebound1-3) | Fire House Pavilion | 411 Main St |
| 10/31 | Lee | Mon | 10am -12pm | Town Hall | 32 Main St |
| 11/01 | Lenox | Tues | 10am -12pm (Homebound1-3) | Community Center | 65 Walker St |
| 11/02 | Sandisfield | Wed | 10am -12pm, (Homebound1-3) | Old Town Hall | 3 Silverbrook Rd |
| 11/03 | Otis | Thurs | 10am -12pm, (Homebound1-3) | Otis Town Hall | One North Main Rd |
| 11/10 | Gt. Barrington | Thurs | 10am -12pm | Housy Dome | 1064 Main St, Housatonic |

A couple of points about the confirmed clinics list:

Community Clinics: All community clinics are listed under home.color.com/vaccine/register/tritown. They are also listed on www.sb-phc.org.

Covid shots: We only offer Pfizer bivalent, so if people prefer Moderna during process, there will be no appointments available at any of the sites.

Flu shots: We are offering regular flu and senior high-dose only. We are not offering egg-free nor mist.

Homebound: We are offering homebound vaccinations for those who struggle coming to the clinics. Those wanting an at-home vaccine should contact Jill Sweet at jill@tritownhealth.org, or call (413) 717-7209. Typically they will be done in the afternoon after a clinic is held in a community.

If people need help registering, they can always contact me: Jayne@tritownhealth.org, (413) 717-8922), or Jill (jill@tritownhealth.org, (413) 717-7209.

—Jane Smith and Jill Sweet

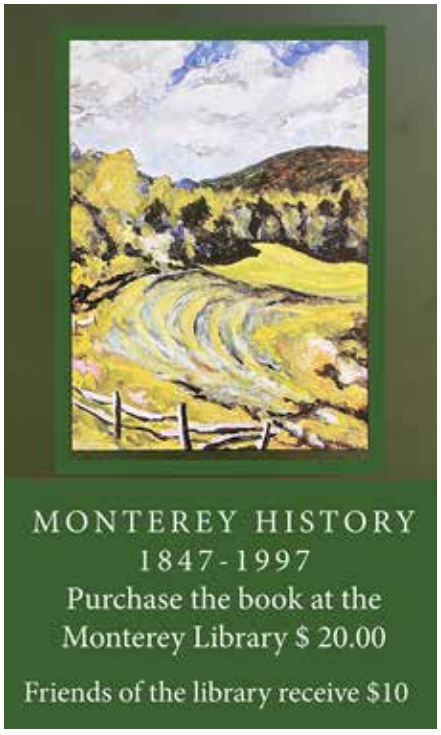
## Community Chorus Concert

Thank you to all those who attended our informal concert/singalong last Thursday at the pavilion! It was really nice to see so many people, nice for our chorus to sing for an audience, and I think you all enjoyed it too.

For me, looking around and seeing the smiles, the swaying bodies and the voices raised in song—from audience and chorus—is what gives me pleasure. Folk music at its finest regardless of what song it is……

Several people asked me about joining the chorus. The best way is to email me personally at Orenrose@aol.com and I will add you to our email list. Our next meeting is Thursday, October 6, depending on the weather either at the firehouse pavilion or the Monterey Community Center.

—Oren Rosenthal

## Pantry PickUp

### Two Years Serving Our Community

The Pantry PickUp marks its two-year anniversary this month, providing year-round weekly food supplies to those who need them. Since its inception in October 2020, the Pantry has distributed more than 2,500 boxes of food, serving at least forty Monterey residents per week. More than twenty-five community volunteers are engaged in picking up food from our suppliers, sorting it for distribution, and, in many cases, delivering it to our neighbors who are unable to come to the Pantry.

We would like to take this opportunity to thank all of you in our community who donate their time as volunteers, as well as those who give food and financial donations to make this important work possible.

### Contribute Food

Canned and boxed food may be dropped off just inside the basement entrance of the Monterey United Church of Christ at 499 Main Road on any day other than Saturday mornings. Only unopened and unexpired items, please.

### Contribute Money

Donations are tax deductible. You can donate online at the church website, montereychurch.org. Click "Support" and type "Pantry PickUp" in the notes. You can also write a check to Monterey United Church of Christ, writing "Pantry PickUp" on the memo line. Please mail it to Monterey United Church of Christ, ATTN: Pantry PickUp, PO Box 182, Monterey, MA 01245. 100% of your donation goes directly to providing food to the community.

### Volunteer

If you would like to join our dedicated team of volunteers, please call (413) 429-4254, or email montereypantry@gmail.com.

—Andrea DuBrow
Pantry Pickup team

## Cultural Council Grant Applications

No more procrastinating! If you have an idea that you want to see realized—a performance, a creative venture, an educational event, or other enriching projects in the arts, sciences, or humanities, check out the Mass Cultural Council website (masculturalcouncil.org/communities) for guidance on how to complete an application.

Typical grants run from $250 to $1000, depending on the scope of the project. Local, grassroots projects needing seed money to get started are viewed favorably.

The process is fairly simple. But if you need someone to walk you through it, Erica Stern (ericastern71@gmail.com) of the Monterey Cultural Council has volunteered to help. Only online applications are accepted, and only until October 17. You'll want to start a little early in case you run into any snags.

If you want more input into what is funded locally, make your voice heard at the November 12 meeting about the Monterey Master Plan. Stay posted for details on that meeting, which will focus on cultural resources.

Good luck!

—Janet Jensen
Monterey Cultural Council

## Town Clerk Walker Suing the Select Board

On September 9, town clerk Terry Walker filed a complaint in US District Court against the Town of Monterey and two former select board members, which was served in late September.

There are four specific complaints: (1) claiming violation by the town of the state Whistleblower Act; (2) violation by the town and the individual defendants of the state Civil Rights Act; (3) commitment by the individual defendants of emotional stress; and (4) violation of her civil rights under the federal laws. Ms. Walker has requested a jury trial.

Three of the complaints are grounded in text from the Greene & Hafer report commissioned by the town in December 2021 and accepted by the select board earlier this year. The fourth complaint, of continued harassment, and retaliation by the select board, is mostly subsequent to the release of the G & H report.

While the select board accepted the G & H report, this does not mean that there was complete agreement by the board or the other named defendants with how the report was conducted or the conclusions of the report.

—Stephen Moore

## Letters
### A "Wild" Experience

I was eating lunch outside this afternoon when a small bee flew into my container of pickled cucumbers, the fluid a mix of vinegar and sugar. As soon as it landed it tried to get out but was struggling poorly to do so. When it seemed clear that it wasn't going to make it, I fished it out and put it on the cutting board that held the container. Unfortunately, it had lots of salad juice on it. The bee, less than a half-inch long, with yellow stripes across its back, hobbled in circles to find a dry spot. I thought it had lost a wing in the salad container, but there was no sign of it there. Looking closer, I saw the wing, smaller than its other, plastered against the bee's body. As close to the bee as possible, I saw it licking its antennae and forelegs, over and over. This continued for perhaps five minutes. Then up popped the other wing. The bee started licking the fluid on the cutting board. After all that struggle, why not?

As I reached for my camera to take its picture, it flew away. Having just returned from the Galapagos, where peaceful proximity to creatures of all sorts seemed a rare privilege, perhaps unique, I realized how common an experience it could be if one is attuned to it.

—Bob Cutick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Sunbathers, *Bob Horvath, from September 2012* Monterey News.

## Letters
### 9/11 Drive Thank You

Hi Monterey!

Philip Enoch and I recently held a drive for troops and veterans at the Monterey Library, in association with Project 351 and the Massachusetts Military Heroes Fund. We're happy to announce that we received many donations, and together with other towns from around the commonwealth, Project 351 was able to provide over 750 care packages to troops and veterans. Thank you so much to everyone who donated to our local drive, you really made a difference!

Also, for anyone who is interested, we would like to organize a time capsule to commemorate Monterey's 175th anniversary starting sometime mid-October. For more contact me at benbvella@gmail.com.

—Ben Vella

Rob Hoogs

*The foundation for Brewer's, and later Langdon's mill, behind the library. See page 21–22.*

# Letters

## Community Concerts

Thank you to the Monterey Cultural Council and the Monterey Community Center Committee for sponsoring two well attended outdoor musical events under the tent and on the lawn (when the weather permitted) at the Community Center last month. It was so great to see over 130 people taking advantage of the late summer weather and the skilled musical talents from Monterey. There were picnics, neighbors catching up, and lots of toe tapping.

Eric Martin and Karen Axelrod gave us a fine concert with Karen on keyboards and Eric on fiddle and feet. The crowd was inspired enough that some hit the asphalt to dance! Roger the Jester, who just happened to be in the crowd, gave a demonstration on how to tango with a folding chair. Marshall Messer and his crew gave a lively concert on a gorgeous summer evening; one might have thought they were still at Tanglewood.

How fun it would be if we had a permanent pavilion (where the rented tent sits) to offer many more outdoor concerts and programs. The tent is only there for three months in the summer but a permanent structure would allow us to be under cover any time of the year. Remember the WinterFest?

—Wendy Jensen

Wendy Jensen

Wendy Jensen

*Desperate Catskill Mountain Band's concert audience, above.*
*Below-Eric Martin and Karen Axelrod playing, with Roger dancing.*

Natalie Manzino

Mark Andrews

# Contributions for September

Thank you once again to all the folks who continue to support the *Monterey News*. The generosity of our spring and summer contributors helps to carry us to the end of the year, but continuing to receive contributions during the fall and into the winter means a lot going forward.

Jeff & Rachel Dolhanczyk
Lonnis Solomon
Linda Skipper & Jim Singelis
Jerry & Helaine Green
Judy Kaminstein
William Enlund
Peter & Linnea Grealish
Anonymous
Andrew Somers
William Pasco

ॐ

# Botanical Garden Harvest Festival

**October 8-9**

Berkshire Botanical Garden's 87th annual Harvest Festival features continuous live music and entertainment, local and artisan food and refreshments, a clothing and accessories sale, plant sale, regional vendors, a farmer's market, pony and hayrides, hay jump, a haunted house and more for children. Festival hours are 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Admission to the Festival is $10, kids under 12 are free. Parking in BBG lots is free. Go to berkshirebotanical.org for further information.

—Berkshire Botanical Garden
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# Monterey Community Center

## Repeating Activities

**Tuesdays:** Chair Yoga, 10 to 11 a.m.
**Tuesdays:** Mahjong, 7 to 9 p.m.
**Tuesdays and Fridays:** Bridge, 1 to 4 p.m.
**Wednesdays:** Tai Chi at 10 a.m. $30 for the month.
**Alternate Wednesdays:** Support group for people with diabetes, 1 p.m., October 12 and 26.
**Wednesday, October 5:** Renewable Energy Working Group, at 6 p.m. First Wednesday of the month.
**Thursday, October 6:** Darn Yarners, at 10 a.m. First Thursday of the month.
**Fridays:** Super Gentle Yoga, 10 to 11 a.m. To register, please email jamesboneparth76@gmail.com.
**Saturdays:** Coffee Club, 8:30 to 10 a.m.
**Saturdays:** Ping Pong, 2:30 p.m.
**Sundays:** Al Anon family group meeting, at 9 a.m.

## Special Events

**Saturday, October 15:** Autumn Mushroom Walk with John Wheeler, 10 a.m. to noon. Meet at MCC, then carpool to Bob's Way east on Route 23. Rain or shine unless a storm is predicted. Sponsored by the Massachusetts and Monterey Cultural Councils. Please register ** (see below).
**Saturday, October 22:** Native Plants Working Group talk, 11 a.m.
**Sunday, October 30:** Peter Poirier concert sponsored by the Council on Aging. "An Afternoon of Oldies." Popular songs from the 50s, 60s, and 70s. 1 p.m., no admission, light refreshments served, seating is limited, please register ** (see below).

## November and December:

Making Wreaths
Third Annual Chestnut Roasting
Monterey Lights the Holidays

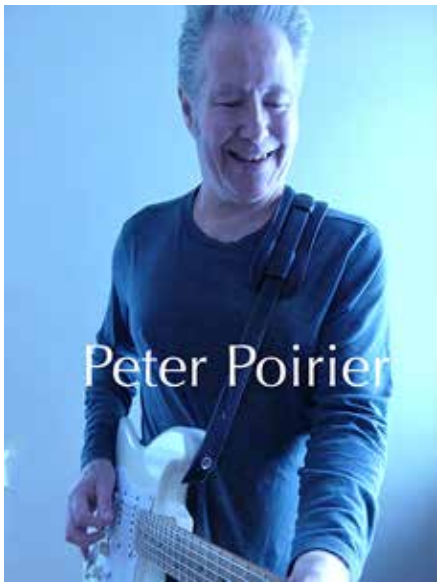
You can find more information on events at ccmonterey.org.

**Call (413) 528-3600, or email calendar@ccmonterey.org to register.

—Mary Makuc, MCC Coordinator and Nancy Kleban

Wendy Germain

*On Sunday, September 18, herbalist Angela Highsmith gave a talk about transforming food into medicine at the MCC.*




*Peter will once again travel from the nearest corner of Monterey to entertain.*

# Letters

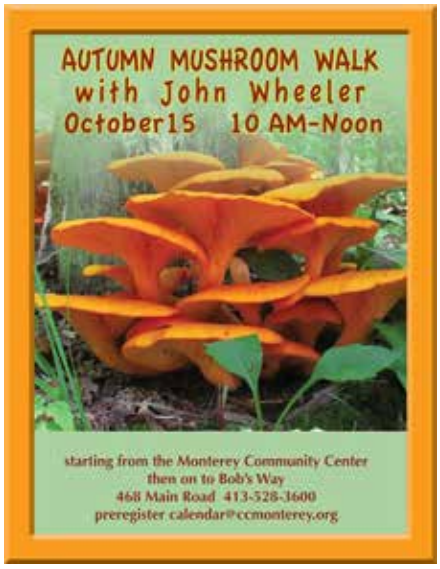
## Goodness Shines Through the Darkness

Ok—I am a New York Yankees fan. And several years ago, having seen a game in historic Fenway Park with an avid Boston fan, I sincerely appreciate the prowess of the Red Sox and I always look forward to seeing the rivalry games on TV. Both the Yankees and the Red Sox are two great teams. But this baseball season is truly special because on September 28 Yankee outfielder Aaron Judge tied the record for the most home runs in an American League regular single season. The record of sixty-one home runs was set by former Yankee outfielder Roger Maris back in 1961. This is especially significant because no other American League player, or for that matter no major league player, was able to reach that magic number sixty-one without the banned use of performance-enhancing drugs.

Anyway, after the Yankees won against the Toronto Blue Jays on the crisp fall evening of the 28th, what really struck a chord was what happened after the home run ball was retrieved by the opposing Toronto Blue Jays and given to Aaron Judge. After all the congratulations from team members and applause from the fans, TV media showed Aaron giving the now famous home run ball to his mother Patty with a big hug and kiss. Now I'm not waxing sentimental here, and hitting the sixty-first was incredible, but in that brief moment, the simple act of a loving son and his mother just seemed to pierce the veil of so much darkness that is so pervasive in our world today. It just felt good and I hope others watching felt the same way. That simple act of kindness and, yes, love of family was seen by thousands including many Boston Red Sox and New York Yankees fans.

Good things can still happen in this world when you least expect it even in the great game of baseball.

—Dennis Lynch



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## Monterey Lights the Holidays

On a crisp fall evening last year, the second annual Monterey Lights The Holidays (MLTH) event was held in front of the Monterey Library. Maggie Barkin, master of the ceremony, began with a welcoming smile and words of greeting, followed by music and songs provided by Bonner McAllester and Joe Baker, the poignant poetry of Dan Barkin, and the throng of families lighting celebratory candles to hide the darkness of world events, and closing with a reflection on the value of community from Laurie Shaw. This event was made possible through the support of Mark Makuc, our dedicated library director, on the Saturday following Thanksgiving.

Just prior to and after the event, until mid-January, warm, white LED lights were displayed at numerous homes of Monterey residents and businesses along Main Road, Route 23. This is made possible through a grant provided by the Monterey Cultural Council, with the strong support of Monterey Community Center and the Friends of the Wilson-McLaughlin House.

Please set your calendars for the third annual Monterey Lights The Holidays seasonal celebration at 7 p.m., on Saturday, November 26, in front of the Monterey Library.

We look forward to again being with our Monterey families, friends, and neighbors.

—Dennis Lynch

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## Roadside 2.0 is Underway

Back in June the *Monterey News* announced Gould Farm's public phase of its capital campaign for the planned new $1 million Roadside Café. At that time, we reported Gould Farm had received $440,000. A $55,000 matching gift challenge from the board and from an anonymous donor was being offered for all gift dollars received by August 15, 2022. As soon as Gould Farm received at least $500,000, it would begin the construction process.

Lisanne Finston, Gould Farm's Executive Director, informed us recently that the outpouring of support locally and nationally for building the new Roadside was beyond expectations and "even our dreams." The matching gift challenge was met five days after it was announced. As of this printing, contributions have reached $850,000! There may be a crowdfunding campaign in early 2023 for purchasing equipment and furnishings. The Farm's B&G Committee is hoping for a grand opening celebration sometime in 2023.

If you would like to contribute to the Roadside 2.0 campaign, contact Melanie Brandston, Director of Philanthropy, at mbrandston@gouldfarm.org, or call (413) 528-1804, ext. 27. Gould Farm is a nonprofit, 501(c)3 organization; all contributions are tax-deductible. Checks, credit cards, appreciated securities, and IRA distributions are accepted. Mailing address is Melanie Brandston, Gould Farm, PO Box 157, Monterey, 01245.

—Melanie Brandston

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*Local References* *Sliding Scale*

*with*

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## October at the Knox Gallery

Please visit the Knox Gallery and take some time to look at Lee O'Connor's prints. These images bear a bit of study; as a viewer examines each piece, forms and objects appear, similarly to the way we might imagine that they emerge in the darkroom during the film development. Though we find images that we recognize when we study the work on display, the color, light, and atmosphere combine in mysterious ways that are somewhat unsettling at times! *Lee O'Connor: Beyond the Verge* opened on September 16 and will be on view through October 22.

*Reduction-Memory Sign vii,* Lee O'Connor

We were pleased to have him speak at the gallery about his inspiration, development of his work, and his processes on September 30. We hope many of you attended and enjoyed the presentation, and we thank the Monterey and Massachusetts Cultural Councils for supporting our artists' talks.

*Michelle Arnot: Think Ink* opens on October 28, 2022, with an opening reception from 7 to 8:30 p.m., on Saturday, October 29. (No food or drink is allowed inside the library at present, but the artist will be available to answer questions.) Arnot, a Sandisfield resident, works with ink on washi paper and is a ranked master practitioner in the traditional Japanese arts of *shodo* (brush writing) and *sumi-e* (ink painting). Having progressed between 2013 and 2016 from beginner in *kanji* (Chinese characters) to *dan* (master level), she earned a license to teach. The exhibit of her work will be on display through the month of November, and the artist will speak about her work later in the month, so please look for more information in the November issue of the *Monterey News*.

Our traditional wintertime community group show will be back this December!

*I recently fulfilled a bucket list wish—an exciting, amazing tandem hang glider ride! The flight took place at Randall airport, Middletown, NY. A plane tows you up to your desired height, and I chose the maximum—to four thousand feet. When I reached that altitude, they released the cable and I flew and floated around the area and descended to an amazingly gentle landing. A thrilling experience!* —*Natalie Manzino*

Any and all Monterey artists and friends are invited to submit work on the theme of "Common Threads."

Wiktionary describes this expression to mean "A recurring or shared characteristic or theme, present in different areas." We hope that this is a useful jumping-off point for new work, whether you approach the concept as subject matter, medium, technique, or any other inspiration.

Please look for additional details in the November issue of the *Monterey News*, and in your inbox if you are on our mailing list, as we will need to collect "Intent to Enter" forms mid-November. The work to be exhibited will need to be submitted to the library on specific days early in December.

All Knox Gallery events are admission free. Exhibits can be viewed during library hours (see back page of this issue). At present, masks are required in the library, but we encourage visitors to check current Covid protocols before attending any of our events. Knox Gallery, Monterey Library, 452 Main Road, Monterey, MA, 528-3795; MontereyMassLibrary.org/Knox-Gallery; Facebook.com/KnoxGallery.

—MaryPaul Yates

*Lake,* 2022, Ink on Washi, Michelle Arnot.


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COURTNEY S. LANE
COURTNEY@DOWNINGLANE.COM

# Skating Over Stars

Laura Denman, whose poetry appears below, was a summer resident of Monterey from 1982 until her passing in 2015. She drew inspiration for her work from our Lake Garfield cottage and our Brooklyn home. When a chronic pain disorder ended her work on a novel, Laura, inspired in part by her Buddhist practice, turned to writing haiku.

The traditional 5-7-5, three-line, seventeen-syllable style, should: (a) represent a moment of insight; (b) arise from a sensory experience, most commonly seen, and (c) suggest something of the natural world, ideally connoting a season. Absent titles and metaphors, Laura's haikus invite you to experience moments of beauty and insight with her.

—Bob Cutick

*Editor's Note: Laura's haiku might show up here and there in future issues of the* Monterey News*. If you'd like more information about Laura's poetry, contact Bob Cutick by emailing him at bobcutick@gmail.com. And look for a copy of her chapbook of poetry,* Skating Over Stars*, in the Monterey Library.*

## An Apple

It is cool and firm in my left hand.

It is round. If I close my eyes and only have the feel of it, this apple becomes the truth of roundness.

A little water lingers in the hollow around the stem.

The color is a half-hemisphere of scarlet, half of dull red. The top is shot with random lights of green.

Tiny pinpoints of yellow appear almost beneath the surface of the skin; and there are bruises - one small and one large, very like the bruises on human skin.

I take the wooden handle of a steel cleaver and slice down the center of the apple. The sliding sound of the cut is accompanied by a faint crackle.

I slice again - white juice and a severed seed appear on the steel blade.

Biting in, the pale green-white flesh and red skin snap under my front teeth.

Sweet juices flow around and between my teeth. And I hear the motion of my teeth and jaw, sounds that are high and sharp, soft and low, vibrating in the bones of my ear.

On my tongue - the tip, the sides, the top, the juice is flooding tart, sweet, tart, sweet.

I have never before eaten an apple so delicious as this.

—Laura Denman

## Skating over Stars

at the water's edge,
on the underside of leaves
lakelight trembling

drinking lemonade
ice cubes chime to the low notes
as I tip the glass

after the shower
hemlock backlit by the sun -
watery and gold

a hedge filled with birdsong
I pause to hear the music
and all grows quiet

across the pasture
a commotion of blue jays
hidden by the trees

skating over stars
reflected in the black ice -
January night

## All Hallowed Thieve

Steel, big engine, runs on real gas & that's
about all I can say about the car. Floor the pedal
& feels like you can pick the whole thing up
by the steering wheel.

Not sure how
it's mine. Things leave & arrive.
Here it is, I got the keys & filled up the
trunk & backseat with pumpkins. Got them somewhere too.
Halloween.

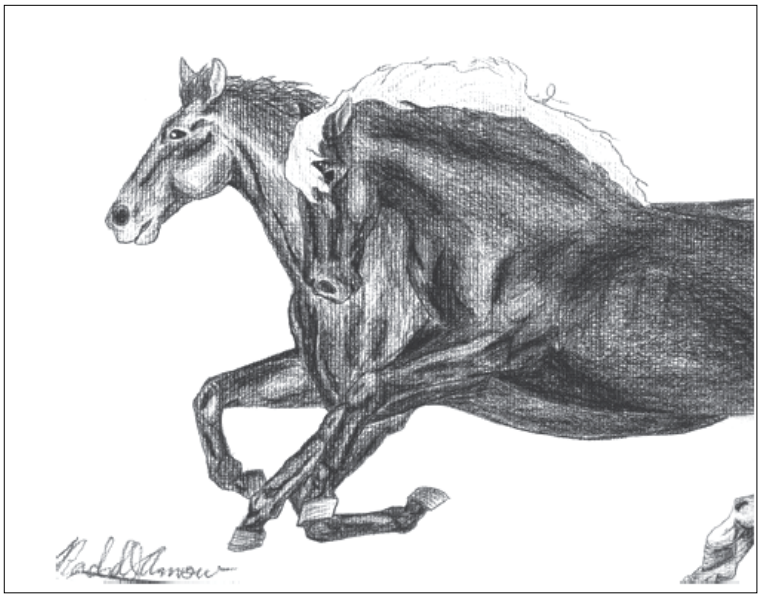
Kids all love
this shiny car, looks like speed & there's a crowd
around admiring it & the pumpkins. I hold up, shake
the keys, bells to part my way through.

Unlock the door,
sit, start it, step on it & burn circles on the parking lot
before powershifting to backstreets avoiding
powers that be.

Why explain
how I got the car or cargo to them.
Things lost & found. Kids

keep on playing.

—Travis Lusk



*—Rachel Jo Arnow, June 2009*

## It Was Always the Lake

It's in my nickname
It's in your email
It was always the lake

We were children there leading
separate lives
Long days immersed in water like silk
And it was always the lake

We met as teenagers
We knew each other's siblings,
parents, even grandparents
And it was always the lake

Then there were spouses and children
Boats and barbecues, movies and
dinners
And it was always the lake

All that changed and we led parallel
lives
The lake became the keeper of
memories
Except for dreams, I left the lake

Now we are the grandparents
We are together, life is good again
And we return to the lake

—Stephanie Sloane

# Highway News

*Editor's Note: "Highway News" is a new column in which Kenn Basler will be reporting on highway department plans and projects. It is not approved text from the town.*

The recent interest in the strange machinery on some of our roads has led to this article, hopefully, more like a column, appearing irregularly in the *Monterey News*. With the help of Jim Hunt, our Director of Operations, I will explore all things highway and let you know about upcoming projects that Jim has in the planning stages. In the event that projects move from planning to the work phase, our town administrator has agreed to post notices on the town website (montereyma.com) and send out "E-Alerts." If you're not yet getting E-Alerts it's easy to sign up. Go to the Monterey website, and on the left side you will see a box titled "Subscribe to E-alerts."

Click on that box and then pick the alerts you want. Choices for E-Alerts include agendas and minutes for all public meetings, general town news and announcements, messages sent out by the select board, and more. You can choose any or all, and you can unsubscribe anytime as well. This is a great way to stay up-to-date and informed.

## Fog Sealing

Now, on to the highway information. The recent work on town roads elicited many questions including one resident that wanted to know, "Is the highway department spraying for mosquitos?" The real reason is a process called fogging. About fifteen years ago the EPA cracked down on a number of chemical compounds that were used to make asphalt. Similar to what happened when the EPA removed lead from paint, the removal of these chemicals from asphalt caused a reduction of nearly one-third in life expectancy for the asphalt paving, from the previous fifteen-to-twenty years down to only ten to fifteen years. This reduction resulted in a number of new products/processes to lengthen the time between repaving projects and help with the cost savings for municipalities. Four years ago Monterey purchased software that helps to monitor and forecast treatments on all our paved roads. This software analyzes the road surface and recommends the timing of treatments that will enhance the life expectancy of the surfacing.

A fog seal is a single, sprayed application of an asphalt emulsion onto an existing pavement surface which is then covered with a fine aggregate for maintenance purposes. The reason for a fog seal is to partially renew oxidized pavement surfaces. This will also seal minor cracks to keep water out, and inhibits the disintegration of an asphalt road surface due to the dislodgment of the aggregate materials (gravel, sand, and crushed stone). Monterey, with the help of its software scheduling program, and a dedicated highway department, continues to stay up to date with processes that make our roads safer and save taxpayers dollars.

This recent fog sealing treatment on paved roads should not be confused with the spray treatments earlier this year on our gravel roads. That treatment is a molasses-based spray (a by-product of sugar making) that helps to seal the fine sandy material in the gravel, reducing the amount of this fine material that washes off the roads, which helps to keep the larger gravel in place.

## What Happened to the Painted Lines?

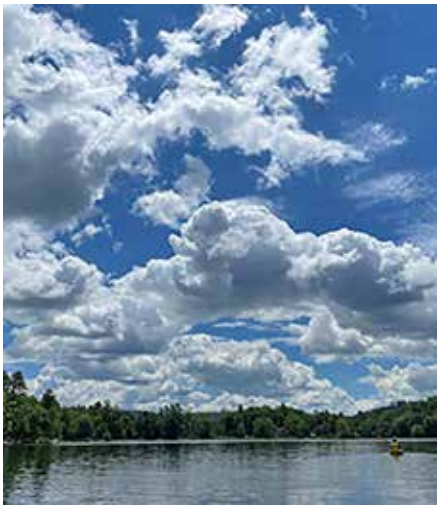
The question about the newly painted lines being covered by the fog sealing confused me too. Jim has assured me that the lines will bleed through and be visible. The problem was with scheduling and weather. Neither project could be done in wet weather and although Jim had initially scheduled the lining project before the fog sealing, the weather upended the plans along with a scarcity of companies that do line painting and fogging. Let's keep our fingers crossed but Jim sees no problem with line visibility.

A lot of information, but Jim and I both feel that it's important for residents to know what your highway department is up to and how it is effectively using taxpayer dollars.

Next month we'll tackle unpaved roads! In the future the upcoming winter season and the new materials used to deal with snow and ice. If you have an idea for a column please send it to the *Monterey News*.

Remember to sign up on the town website for the E-alerts.

—Kenn Basler



Natalie Manzino

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## Here's a Thought...

I grew up on the south shore of the Niagara River, so a jaunt over to Canada, while exotic and exciting, wasn't terribly out of the ordinary. Since I was six years old in 1953, fascinated by details, changes, stabilities, and what-ifs, I remember riding through southeastern Ontario as Daddy drove along the newly-renamed QEW, the Queen Elizabeth—not the King George—Way. Several years later, Mom and I took a trip to Montreal. One evening I sat absorbed in a film of the Queen's coronation on the television in the hotel room, as it was an anniversary of that historic day.

The British royals fascinated me throughout my childhood. Frequent newsy and gossipy tales of princes and princesses, kings and queens, sounded like they were right out of the European fairy tale books I devoured. But the British royals were real people. They lived in the same world I did, so I figured maybe the magic in the old tales was alive in my world, too.

I didn't keep that perspective as time went by. Instead, I became fascinated by the lives of those royals as people. That was magic and darkness enough. The tragedies that one or another royal family member created, encountered, or endured over the years underlined something I'd learned in my early twenties.

I'd moved to New York in the summer of 1969 and all my new teacher friends were teaching kids in Harlem, one of the most poverty-stricken areas of Manhattan. I'd started teaching in one of the poorest areas of Erie County the year before, but now I was hired as an art teacher in a progressive Long Island district where many of my students would be the children of the scientists, mathematicians, and others who'd worked on Grumman Aerospace's then-current success, the lunar landing module for the Apollo 11 mission.

As the first day of school approached, I see-sawed between feeling guilt-stricken at the affluence and thrilled to have a job. Within a day or two, though, I realized these well-heeled kids' needs were just packaged differently than the burdens my friends' students, and the kids I'd taught before, carried.

The kids I taught then had breakfast before coming to school, clothes in their

*Will Anderson, my mom's father, was first old enough to vote for president in 1896, when Queen Victoria was still queen of England. I don't know whether the vote he cast was for Bryan or McKinley, but I do know he voted in every election from that time forward until his death in 1961.*

closets, books to read, bedrooms to read them in, and parents with the means to cultivate their talents. Each one of those privileges a precious gift. But getting to know the kids themselves woke me to the universality of the strengths, weaknesses, bravado, courage, hopes, joys, pain, and suffering that come with just being human. It was working with them that finally shifted the childhood magic I'd felt in connection with the British royals to compassion for the human condition. We all ride the same blue planet around the same fiery sun, so why not be kind whenever we can? And why not aim for compassion for ourselves and each other when we can't?

Quick fast forward. Last month many of us watched parts of Queen Elizabeth the Second's hearse carry her body to its final resting place. Now the people of Great Britain and the British Commonwealth, rich and poor alike, face the task of moving forward. No easy task, but no one promised it would be easy. And I wonder, are the road signs along southeastern Ontario's QEW being replaced, declaring it now the KCW, the King Charles Way?

Another fast forward, here at home and into next month. Though our laws have roots in England's Magna Carta, our form of government insists we don't bow to a king or queen. We have the privilege and the responsibility to vote for our government officials instead.

Like the lives of monarchs and voters, the life of a democracy is both fragile and strong. Its strength depends on each of us deciding whether to vote for democracy, or for cynicism. So make the effort to find out who, and what, is on the ballot and vote your choice on November 8. Otherwise, shrug it off as a responsibility and privilege you really don't want. It's that simple. So cast your ballot by mail, or get to the polls. After all, here and now, we still can.

—Mary Kate Jordan

*Editor's Note: If you wish to vote by absentee ballot, go to montereyma.gov/town-clerk to request one.*

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## Red-spotted Newt or Red Eft

Some creatures enjoy such remarkable metamorphosis that they get at least two different names. One of these is a kind of salamander, most often noticed by us folks during its adolescent stage when it is a bright red-orange creature of the woods. At this time, we might call it a "red eft." We can also call it a "newt" at any time in its life, though very early on it is the "egg of a newt."

Our native eastern or red-spotted newt's egg can only be found in the water, where its mother has placed it on the stem of an aquatic plant in the shallows of a pond or lake. There it sits, not very close to any of the other more than three hundred eggs deposited singly over the course of several weeks by this female salamander. It will then hatch, and now we call it a larva. It will be half an inch long, yellow-green, with a grey stripe along each side from head to tail. This is an aquatic animal, with frilly external gills. In two or three months, it will be a full-sized newt larva, an inch and a half long. It is a carnivore and will have been gobbling down creatures small enough to manage.

The salamander is an amphibian and lives some of its life on land, and some in the water, the way frogs and toads do. The larva comes ashore, changed now to an eft. There are no more fancy gills, the animal has become bright orange, and now it is up on its legs. It walks away from the pond and takes up its terrestrial phase, the one we call an "eft."

The derivation of this word is hard to figure nowadays, though in Old English it might have been "efeta." For the animal, life in orange is safe. This new skin is equipped with a neurotoxin, and we refer to the orange color as "aposematic." It is a warning. Any blue jay that grabs a colorful eft will spit it out and not try one again. The same goes for many other bright orange small creatures, like Colorado potato beetles and certain butterflies.

The red efts get to be four inches long, tip to tip, and are speckled with red spots, edged in black. If picked up gently, they do not give off any neurotoxin. They are mostly diurnal, easy to see. Any time the temperature is above freezing, the efts will be walking about in the damp woods if there is no snow, or even crossing roads. In his book *Amphibians and Reptiles*, 1990, Tom Tyning writes of walking along a road in late summer after a rain. In one mile he counted 563 red efts. At this time of year, the newly emerged efts migrate away from their natal ponds, and Tyning writes that some populations also migrate in the fall *back* to their ponds as they are ready to change form again.

The juvenile or eft phase on land can be two to five years, and at the end of this time, when they are four inches long, they go back to the water. They will already be losing their bright orange or red look, changing to blend in with aquatic surroundings. They still have spots, but now they develop fins on their tails and are overall greenish. We can still call them newts, but they are not efts anymore.

Adult newts in the water may live fifteen years. They stay in the shallows, and do not develop gills. They get their oxygen through the skin, or by taking in air at the surface, through their nostrils. Male newts are darker than the females and when mating season comes, they develop special dark ridges on the insides of their hind legs and toes. These are for clasping the females, which is part of their mating dance. The two thrash around together, with the male on top, and he rubs his chin against her head. This courtship embrace inspires her to ovulate and then they disengage so the male can deposit a spermatophore on the bottom of the pond. The female follows him close behind and takes up the spermatophore into her cloaca, where fertilization occurs. Now she goes to thick growths of aquatic plants and starts attaching her many eggs one by one, and it can take about a week to place all 375-400 of them. They are very small and will hatch in three to five weeks, depending upon the water temperature. The eggs are brown on top and pale underneath. When they hatch, the tiny larvae sink to the bottom and hold still for about a week, but the cycle is rolling.

Red-spotted newts are our most common American salamander, also most visible. In 1758 the Swedish taxonomist Carolus Linnaeus, that observant naturalist, had not seen many salamanders. He explained they were scarce because "their Creator has not exerted his power (to create) many of them" because they were unattractive. "Foul and loathsome" is how he put it. His travels took him to Lapland, England, and France, but he can't have made it to eastern North America. Anyone who has met our red-spotted newt could only call it lovely and a marvel. This creature is handsome, brilliant, fascinating. Just ask anybody who has seen one.

—Bonner McAllester

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Builder, Retractable Awning & Window
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hhbuilder7@gmail
Great Barrington Ma. 01230
T.J. Harrigan
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# Monterey Historical Society
## Mills of Monterey

An interested and knowledgeable group of about twenty people attended the Monterey Historical Society's talk, "The Mills of Monterey," on September 15. Our story in this month's issue will give you a taste of what we talked about.

But first—our next event will be a talk by Barbara Swann about "Township No. 1 in the Revolutionary War," to be held at the Monterey Library on Thursday, October 20, from 7 to 8 p.m. Barbara has collected many interesting stories in their own words about the men from Tyringham/Monterey who fought in the war sourced from their applications for pensions. Hope to see you then.

We also hope that you will join the historical society and help us to share Monterey's stories. It's easy. Send a check addressed to Monterey Historical Society, PO Box 381, Monterey, MA 01245. An individual membership is only $15, family membership is $25.

**The Mills of Monterey**—and why the village is here.

As you enter the Monterey Library, look down at the bronze medallion in the center of the historic grindstone embedded in the sidewalk which reads "The Site of Brewer's Mills."

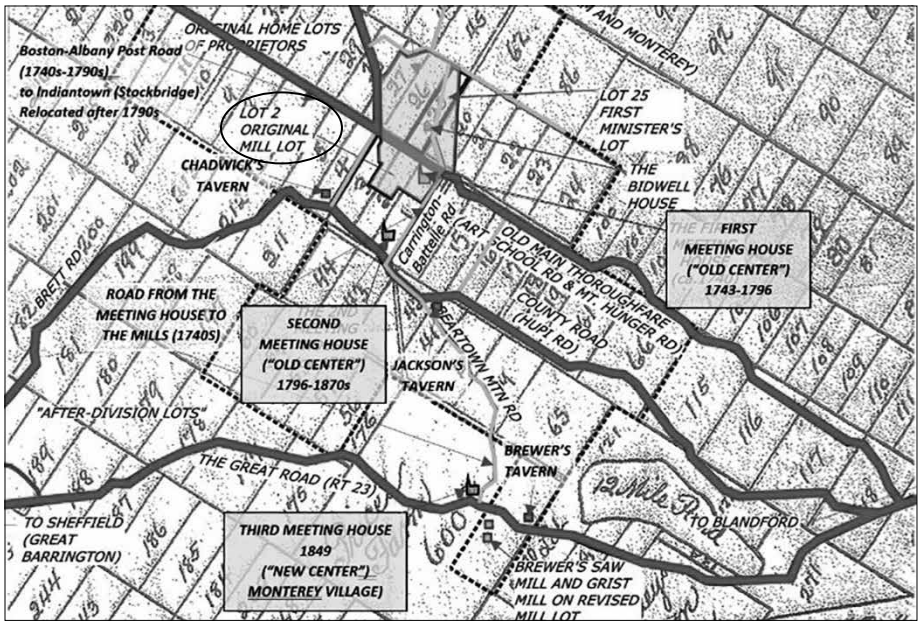
• What was Brewer's Mills?

• What does that have to do with the Library?

• Have you ever wondered about "Old Center" and why the village of Monterey is here?

The answer is literally under the library.

In the late 1730s, the Proprietors, as the land purchasers were called, of the newly chartered Township No. 1 were busy surveying and laying out the township. Like many other colonists, they believed that the high ridges were the best place to build their homesteads instead of in the foggy valleys with their "miasma" of disease. So all the proprietors' home lots were laid out high along the ridge, along several main east-west roads (Hupi-Brett, Mt. Hunger-Art School), together with the site for the First Meeting House (Lot 1), the First Minister (Lot 25), the School (Lot 20), and—most importantly for this story—the site for the essential saw mill and grist mill (Lot 2, in oval above.).


ORIGINAL HOME LOTS OF PROPRIETORS
Boston-Albany Post Road (1740s-1790s) to Indiantown (Stockbridge) Relocated after 1790s
LOT 2 ORIGINAL MILL LOT
CHADWICK'S TAVERN
LOT 25 FIRST MINISTER'S LOT
THE BIDWELL HOUSE
FIRST MEETING HOUSE ("OLD CENTER") 1743-1796
Carrington-Battell Rd
OLD MAIN THOROUGHFARE
SCHOOL RD & MT. HUNGER RD)
COUNTY ROAD (HUPI RD)
BRETT RD
ROAD FROM THE MEETING HOUSE TO THE MILLS (1740S)
SECOND MEETING HOUSE ("OLD CENTER") 1796-1870s
BEARTOWN MTN RD
JACKSON'S TAVERN
"AFTER-DIVISION LOTS"
BREWER'S TAVERN
THE GREAT ROAD (RT 23)
12 Mile Pond
TO BLANDFORD
TO SHEFFIELD (GREAT BARRINGTON)
THIRD MEETING HOUSE 1849 ("NEW CENTER") MONTEREY VILLAGE)
BREWER'S SAW MILL AND GRIST MILL ON REVISED MILL LOT

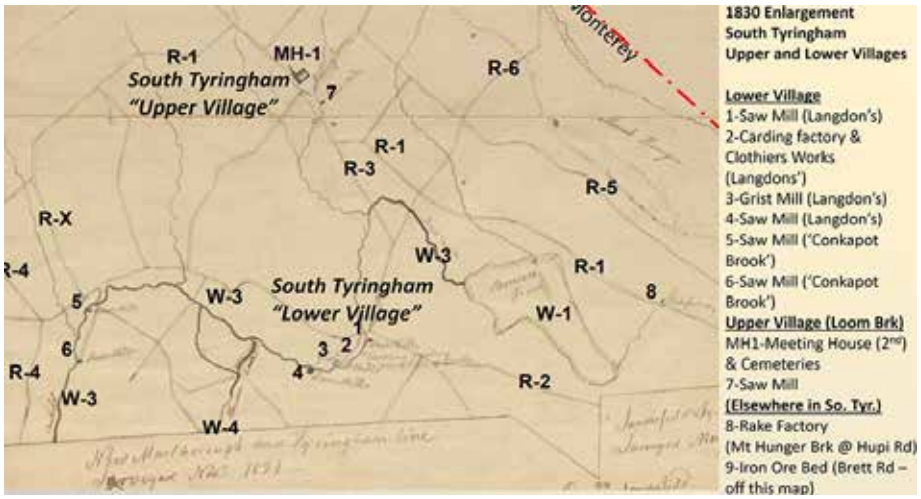
The mill lot was originally planned to be along Loom Brook east and north of Beartown Mountain Road. After several unsuccessful attempts to attract a miller to come build and operate mills here (the site lacked sufficient and reliable water flow), the proprietors relocated the mill lot two miles downstream along the river from the outlet of 12 Mile Pond (Lake Garfield). Captain John Brewer then agreed to come from Hopkinton, MA, and by 1740 had built both a saw mill and grist mill. Thus, "Brewer's Mills."

The stone foundations of the saw mill are still visible immediately behind the Monterey Library (see photo on page 10). The stone dam formed the mill pond for the saw mill and downstream grist mill. The proprietors also soon had to have a road built between the meeting house and the village mills. This road is now Carrington-Battel Road, Beartown Mountain Road, and Tyringham Road.

During the latter half of the eighteenth and nineteenth century, many other mills were built in the town at various locations including in North Tyringham along Hop Brook, in Old Center along Loom Brook, along the Konkapot River along River Road, and especially in what became Monterey village. These included mills owned and operated by the Langdon family who took over the saw mill and grist mill from the Brewers and also established the general store.

As shown on the 1830 map (below), the mills in South Tyringham's "Lower Village" (our current village) included two saw mills, a carding factory and clothiers works, and a grist mill. A paper mill was built a little downstream during the 1830s and a woolen factory existed by 1858. The "Upper Village" ("Old Center") included the second meeting house (built 1796 to replace the original meeting house half

*Mills of Monterey cont. on page 22*



*Mills of Monterey cont. from page 21*

*The Langdon saw mill on the site of what is now the Monterey Library.*

half a mile north) and a saw mill. Other mills in South Tyringham (as Monterey was called prior to separation from Tyringham) included two more saw mills on "Conkapot Brook" along River Road, a rake factory upstream from Hupi Road, and an iron ore bed along Brett Road. An 1858 map shows three dams serving the mills in the lower village.

In 1849, the third meeting house (the Congregational Church) was built in the center of the village; and in 1876 the mills in what was by then Monterey village included a saw mill on the foundation of the original Brewer saw mill, a planing mill, woolen factory, and the R. L. McDowell paper mill, as well as a shingle mill along a tributary stream.

Monterey village was flourishing. The Old Center was still active but had become mostly a residential village. —Rob Hoogs

Natalie Manzino

## Beth and Dave's Travels, Part 5

When we last wrote we were in Eureka, California and we continue to pick up from there.

After visiting the northern redwoods, we spent most of the rest of the week around the local area. We walked along some black sand beaches, a long walk along a breakwater where we saw a variety of sea creatures. Sea stars, mussels, jellyfish, barnacles, along with gulls, terns, and several types of shorebirds. Another beach we visited was called Agate Beach. We, along with many other people, searched for agates. This is the beach where I (Beth) finally found not one—but four banana slugs. I had been wanting to find one. This slug is huge! It is yellow, and the biggest one I found was at least five inches long. Really cool animal. The last day we were in the area we visited another stand of redwood trees located to the south. These trees are unbelievably huge, just indescribable, the largest in the world. I have pictures of them posted on my Facebook page where you can view them.

It was hard to leave the Eureka area, especially after enduring 100° temperatures for the past month. The 60s to 70s of Eureka was refreshing and a welcome change that was just fine with us.

We traveled south into California to a nice sounding place called Clear Lake with an Airbnb right on the lake. Just because it sounds nice doesn't always mean it is—it wasn't. The town was run down, our Airbnb was dirty, the air conditioner sounded like it was eating marbles, the toilet seat was like riding a boogie board, and more. We decided, after staying one night, that we just couldn't stay there so we found another place to stay. We found a great place in Alameda, an island between Oakland and San Francisco.

After settling in we explored the area's beaches and a large nature preserve park that was at one time the local landfill. A day was spent in San Francisco. This was much easier than expected. Alameda has a huge parking lot on the bay and from there you can have a nice relaxing twenty-minute-or-so ride into San Francisco. We first made our way to Fisherman's Wharf where we got some lunch. I had dungeness crab and Dave had baked halibut. Yum

yum. Time seemed short so we boarded a double decker bus and took in a narrated tour of the city. We saw downtown Chinatown, beautiful parks, gorgeous, and varied architecture, and had a windy, cold ride across the Golden Gate Bridge. We got off the bus at pier 39 and visited the seals that have taken up residence there and got ice cream. Unfortunately, by the time we got to the aquarium it was closed. So we made our way to the ferry and rode back to Alameda.

But we found out there is a special ferry arrangement to go to the San Francisco Giants baseball stadium! We bought tickets to a game and the ferry dropped us off right at the entrance to the stadium. Super easy and convenient. The baseball game was fun and we had a great time. The next couple of days were low key as I had done something to my back, had a good size knot that was very painful, and needed time to release.

After leaving Alameda, we traveled further south to visit a long-time friend of Dave's who lives in Paso Robles. It was very nice to meet Dave's friend and to have a tour guide for the area. During our first full day there we took a short ride to the coast. We visited the Hearst Castle museum. Oh, boy! What one can do with money. We also saw a group of elephant seals who have taken to not migrating with the rest of the seals and hang out on the coast year round. We enjoyed the area so much that Dave and I decided to go back the next day and see more beaches and natural history visitor centers.

The following day we spent a while at our Airbnb. The truck needed a tune-up, oil change, two new tires, and new rear brakes. We were stranded for a while, but Dave's friend came and took us out to lunch at a golf course where her husband was playing that day. On our last night there we were treated to a light show. The "Field of Lights" show was the work of world renowned artist Bruce Munro. The show consisted of tens of thousands of fiber optic lights, powered by solar, each on a stem with a ball on top. The ball would light up with colors. The darker it got the brighter the colors became. The slightest breeze would make the stems sway and it was like the colors were forming waves along the whole landscape of hills and valleys.

After saying our goodbyes, we headed back east a little bit. Our first stop was in Carson City, Nevada, stopping at historic Virginia City on the way. Virginia City was the largest gold- and silver-producing area ever, producing $400 million of gold and silver ore over a relatively short period of time, from 1859-1910—the Comstock Lode. The next day, Dave, being the nice guy he is, let me drive. I drove over four hundred miles across an area that Dave refers to as "four hundred miles of desert called Nevada." What a nice guy!!

We spent the night in Wendover, Utah where the next day we explored the Wendover Air Force Base. This is where the training took place for the planes and crew leading up to the dropping of the atomic bombs on Japan.

We wanted to experience a drive on the Bonneville Salt Flats where every year world speed records are set, even by Dave's son. However, when we arrived, the flats were flooded and we couldn't drive out. Just our luck! So, onto the Great Salt Lake, only to find, unlike the flats, a lake lacking in water. The lack of spring snow runoff from the mountains and little to no rain for several years have depleted the lake to record lows. In some areas the lake is down hundreds of feet from where it should be and the smell from dead and decaying organisms is overwhelming. Anyone we talked to around this area always brought up the lack of water in our conversations.

Leaving Salt Lake City, we headed to one of our top five destinations—Yellowstone National Park. On day one we entered the park and headed north. We did see boiling mud pots, thermal pools, and steam vents, but the same story continued. Even after all the flooding this spring

*Old Faithful did not disappoint!*

that shut down that park, much of this area has dried up from the lack of rain. As a result, many of these thermal areas were underwhelming. We did see herds of bison, a herd of grazing elk (above left), and some smaller critters, as well as a beautiful waterfall on the Gibbon River and some gorgeous scenery.

Day two we explored the east side of the park. Here, water and water features were the name of the game. Water has cut deep canyons into the rock of this area, and is now known as the "Grand Canyon" of Yellowstone. The canyon is over 1,200 feet deep at its deepest and 4,000 feet at its widest, running twenty-four miles long. The views of both the upper and lower falls are breathtaking. The canyons of this area are surely the highlight of this section of the park.

Day three we explored the southern section of the park. This area has some beautiful pools.The greens and blues of the water are sparkling clear, and are surrounded by yellows, reds, oranges, and other colors which are caused by different bacterias. Along with the beautiful pools, there were many steam vents, mudpots, and geysers. The highlight of it all was watching Old Faithful erupt, not once but twice. Spectacular!

From here we will be heading to the Grand Tetons. See you there!

—Beth and Dave Gilmore

## Wildlife Report

Late in August there was an alligator in the wind. That is, word was out an alligator had been seen, or was thought to have been seen, in Steadman Pond in Monterey. Some went over to take a look but there has been no further word. Still, even thinking of an alligator in our cold northern pond is a sorry thought. Let's pause a moment, for sorry.

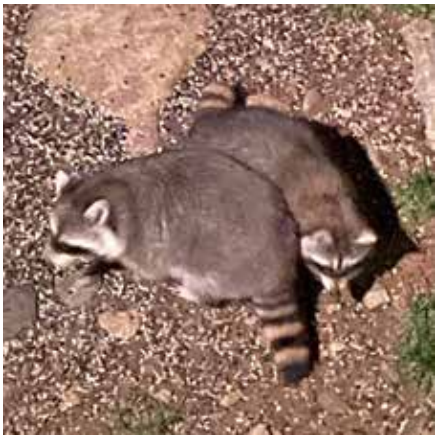
About that time way up north in Burlington, Vermont, Alex Moore took a splendid photograph (above) of an adult praying mantis in all its colorful glory. And Maureen Banner sent a close-up of the no less glorious asparagus beetle larvae in her garden.

All the gods' children got a place in the choir, to paraphrase the late Bill Staines. Dan Zweig saw his local deer children about that time, still spotted but getting rangier. They are still in the company of their mom.

Roberta Weiss has seen two wolves, she writes, that were walking along Main Road in daytime, past Stan Ross' house. This was early in September. And Bonsai

Carl Hartman took photographs of a miraculous young northern water snake (below). Often when we see these snakes, they are older and have turned very dark, almost black. When young, though, their remarkable patterns are clear to see, in a similar color scheme to milk snakes, but in a different design.

Cox keeps us up to date on the visitors to her spilled bird seed near the house, this time two happy young raccoons, well fed (below).



Monterey folks have been seeing quite a few bobcats. Susan Popper of New Marlborough Road took a good photograph (above) from her kitchen window. She was fixing dinner, and she felt the bobcat had the same thing in mind, headed off on the hunt.

Our Sheffield neighbor David LeBeau has been enjoying the black vultures that have taken over an abandoned shed or perhaps chicken house at his place. It has been a black vulture house, for the last three years, and this year's youngsters are ready to fly south. David sent a photograph of two (above) of these new birds, quite handsome and different from the turkey vultures we all know from these parts. The black vultures are expanding their range northward.

Bonsai Cox was visited by a "grey ghost" (above), which is a name for the male northern harrier. Some of us grew up calling harriers "marsh hawks." They fly low, often over marshes and, big as they are, can hover over prey before stooping to grab a meal.

Bears have become so familiar that not many people feel like remarking on them, but Paul O'Reilly-Hyland on Main Road was visited once again by a youngster, drawn to the little shed where garbage is stored. The barking dog sent the bear on its way, though not in any great haste, and Paul took a video.

Ed Salsitz on Beartown Mountain Road sent a photograph (above right) of the first wooly bear caterpillar I have seen this fall, also a red-backed salamander (middle

right) and a fine big earthworm, showing the clitellum (below). This is a special pale ring that makes a sort of cocoon to hold the eggs. Snakes do not have such a thing.

*Wildlife cont. on page 26*

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*Wildlife, cont. from page 26*

Raccoons are out and about, hunting at night for anything good to eat. In the garden this could be squash or corn, in the orchard any fruit, and around the edges of ponds and brooks, any fish, frogs, or shellfish. The edge of water makes a fine "mud album," as Ernest Thompson Seton called it, and we have a photograph (above) of just such a place, from Peter Murkett. The five-fingered "hand" looks much like ours, and the hind foot does too. They are just smaller, with better claws.

Marija Willen, who lives on Chestnut Hill Road near Route 23, sent in photographs of a young porcupine headed across the highway (above). Cars slowed and stopped and the porcupine "decided to turn back."

Margery Spagnoletti sent a photograph (above right) of a "dragonfly, bright red from tip to tip with blue-grey wings." This is one of the species of "meadowhawks," the yellow-legged meadowhawk, which have the latest flight period of any dragonflies around here, often as late as November. They like to perch high

up, and sometimes occur in very large numbers. These may well have been the kind of dragonflies described last month by Steve Moore and Wendy Jensen as "an outbreak of dragonflies." There were "perhaps hundreds" of them.

In mid-September, Steve Snyder sent a photograph (below) of a perfect tiny snapping turtle, posed on a leaf. That looks like a sycamore leaf, quite ornate. As is the little turtle.

Carol Clarin gave me a robin's nest unlike any I'd seen before, so I took a photograph for this report. It has the characteristic thick mud lining with outer twiggery for support. But this one also has long trailing dried vegetation off and down one side, like a hula skirt or a decorative curtain. I try to picture the robin flying with this long drapery, maybe back when it was green and fresh, and then working it into the nest to hang down.

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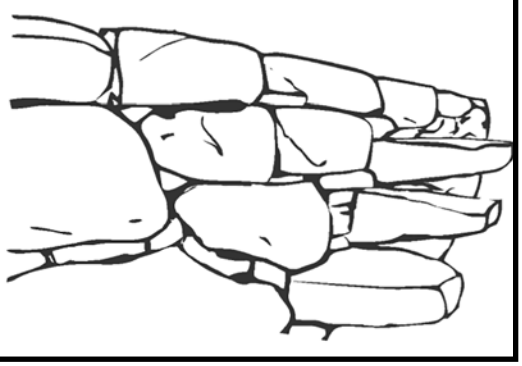

We have the famous colonial bryozoans of summer and late fall, thanks to Maureen Banner who sent in the photograph (previous page, lower right). These "blobs of jelly" show up in lakes, ponds, and slow streams, mystifying folks. There are many little critters living on the surface of that blob, using their tiny feeding tentacles to find food in the water. The colonies break up in the fall and send off little "statoblasts," to settle and make new gelatinous colonies next year.

Suzanne Sawyer wrote at the end of August, having seen red efts crossing Route 183 in Sandisfield one morning when the road was wet from rain in the night. The salamanders were so thick on the road that it was a challenge to miss them while driving. Suzanne sent a photograph (left, and bottom right) of one she discovered a few days later in her yard, and it looks, in color, like it is changing to the olive-green of the aquatic adult of this species.

Besides this, Suzanne reports the rescue of a small deer mouse (above) that had fallen into a hole in the ground, newly dug for construction purposes. They had covered the hole, but the little mouse fell in anyway and had a difficult night. The next day the Sawyers fed it peanut butter and cheese, and it revived and felt well enough to go back into the woods. Suzanne sent a video of the youngster munching on cheese, carefully chewing over each mouthful.

Carol Edelman, faithful hummingbird reporter, writes of a female "perched at the feeder a long time, drinking deep on the equinox." This bird has a long trip coming up soon.

For several weeks Colleen Johnson has watched a small spider collecting insects on the outside of a screen and then somehow bringing them "inside to the comfort of my living room to snack on!" She says there is a collection of "remains" in this dining area on the inner windowsill.

And I will close this report with another wolf sighting, this one by Maureen Banner, backed up with a photograph (above), showing details of all eight legs, handsomely banded with pale grey and darker grey. The decorative tufts of fur are also grey, and they are frosted, quite stylish.

Many thanks to all, for photos and observations, for questions and details.

—Bonner McAllester
413-528-9385, bonnermca@gmail.com


SUSAN M. SMITH
Attorney At Law

38 Mahaiwe St., Suite 1
Great Barrington
Massachusetts 01230

Telephone: (413) 229-7080
Facsimile: (413) 229-7085

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## Council on Aging

We have two important events this October. Occurring first is a vaccination clinic on October 25. All Covid-19 vaccines will be available—first shots as well as boosters, including the newest booster which includes elements targeting Omicron variants. Flu shots will also be offered. Details are below and registration is requested. I urge you to take advantage of this convenient way to protect your health and our community. (See page 8 for Tri-Town's vaccination clinic information.)

The second event is a concert of music from the 50s, 60s, and 70s by Peter Poirier on October 30. This is a long-postponed appearance, cancelled when we were afraid to gather in public spaces because of Covid-19. While we all still need to be careful, we are so happy to be able to accept Peter's offer to share his music again. Registration is required—hoping for a capacity crowd! See details below.

To reach the Council on Aging, please call (413) 528-1443, extension 247. The messages are picked up once daily.

### October Events

**Wednesday, October 12:** Movie night showing *Some Like It Hot*, at 7 p.m., in the Monterey Library. Note the change from Tuesday to Wednesday. This is permanent. Going forward, movie night will be the second Wednesday of every month.

**Tuesday, October 25:** Vaccination Clinic will be held at the firehouse pavilion from 10 a.m. to noon, with homebound vaccinations scheduled for 1 to 3 p.m.

**Sunday, October 30:** Rock'n'Roll with Peter Poirer. Enjoy Peter's playing popular songs from the 50s through the 70s. Indoors at the community center at 1 p.m. Refreshments provided. Please call the MCC at (413) 528-3600 to register. Space is limited.

### Ongoing Services

**Wellness Clinic:** The wellness clinics have been cancelled until further notice. Please contact the COA at the number above if you have concerns about this.

**Parkinson's Support Group:** This month's meeting is on Thursday, October 6, from 2 to 4 p.m. in the Monterey Library. Call the CoA at the number above if you'd like more information about the program.

**Transportation:** For seniors and people with disabilities needing trips to Great Barrington and Pittsfield. Call (413) 528-1881. Forty-eight-hours notice required to be sure of a ride.

**Foot Nurse:** Beverly Dunn is available for home visits. Call (413) 446-2469 to schedule an appointment. COA covers $10 of her fee.

**Free Safety Vests:** Vests to ensure you are visible to car traffic are available in town hall for walkers and bikers.

—Lin Saberski
Chair, Council on Aging

## Bidwell House Museum

It is officially fall in the Berkshires, and a beautiful time to visit the Bidwell House Museum. Between the cooler temperatures and the changing leaves, it is the perfect season to take a hike on the museum grounds, stroll in the gardens, or enjoy some time outside. As always, the gardens and grounds are open daily free of charge.

If you missed out on taking a guided tour of the museum this summer, you only have a couple more weeks to see the house. Our regular schedule of guided tours by appointment on Monday, Thursday, Friday, and Saturday continues until October 10. After that, we will be offering very limited tours through the end of October. Contact the museum for more information about availability.

As we mentioned last month, we are planning two programs on October 8 that should be fun and interesting. First, at 1 p.m., join the museum for the last lecture in our three-part series about gravestone making in the eighteenth- and nineteenth-century Berkshires. In his lecture, "That the Dead Must Not Be Forgotten," Bob Drinkwater will share material from his book, *In Memory of Susan Freedom: Searching for Gravestones of African Americans in Western Massachusetts*. Attendees can view the talk in person or on Zoom. Bob's talk will be followed by a walk at a Monterey cemetery.

Later, at 7 p.m. that same day, we are excited to bring back the popular program "Scary Stories Around the Fire," with local author Robert Oakes. Oakes will share readings on Berkshire colonial-era history and ghost lore and tell the tale of "The Ghost of Green River." Following the outdoor fireside presentation, Robert will lead a short candlelit ghost walk through the house. The first half of this program is outside, so if rain is forecast for Saturday, the program will move to 4 p.m. on Sunday, October 9. There will be some scary elements in the stories, so we advise that the program is appropriate for ages twelve and up. Please dress for the weather. Cider and donuts will be available after the outdoor part of the program.

You must register on the museum website, bidwellhousemuseum.org, under "Events," to attend both of the above programs.

Finally, we are planning a grounds clean-up day in late October to get the gardens ready for winter. Tasks include raking leaves, cutting back plants, and moving outdoor benches and chairs indoors. If you are interested in helping out on either October 22 or 29 (date will be finalized in early October) contact the museum at bidwellhouse@gmail.com. As always, we are so grateful for the help of all of our Monterey friends.

—Heather Kowalski
Executive Director

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## Downed Trees at Bidwell Park

The micro-burst of July 12 created havoc in many spots in the area of the village, including down in Bidwell Park. See page 30 for the explanation from the select board for the special town warrant article which would vote to allocate funds to clean this up.

—Photos by Stephen Moore

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Town Seal by Edith Wilson

## Select Board Corner

Welcome to the Select Board Corner. Our goal is to submit an article each month to the *Monterey News* to keep everyone up to date on important issues, office closings, highway projects, etc. This article may be especially important for those who cannot access our website. This is a work in progress, and we welcome any comments or suggestions on the articles.

### MontereyMA.gov

Our town website is a great way to access information about the town.

— Justin Makuc, Chair
Susan Cooper and Scott Jenssen
Monterey Select Board
(justin@montereyma.gov)
(susan@monterey.com)
(scott@montereyma.gov)

## Select Board Corner

### Tree Work at Bidwell Park

The upcoming special town meeting warrant includes an article requesting the transfer of "free cash" for tree work at Bidwell Park (located in the village center across the Konkapot River from the library) related to the aftermath of a high-wind storm that took place on July 12.

At Bidwell Park, the wind storm made a huge mess of trees down on the ground, leaving others still leaning on each other and hanging in the air. (See page 29.) The park has been closed to the public since July, and will remain closed until the trees are cleaned up. The complexity of trees that are not fully on the ground as well as the sheer volume of trees down require that the town contract with our tree contractor (John W. Field Tree Service) to do the work.

The estimated cost of cleaning up the trees is based on the town's contract with John W. Field Tree Service. The work at Bidwell Park is estimated to take four days for a bucket truck ($1,600/day), crane ($2,800/day), chipper ($1,200/day), and excavator ($800/day) for a total of $25,600. In addition to these four days of work, the estimate includes $800 for a log truck to dispose of debris and a $3,180 contingency amount in case the work takes more time than estimated, bringing the total estimate for the project to $29,580.

When the select board was presented with the cost of this tree work project, we met with the Director of Operations, Tree Warden, and Park Commissioners to determine how this project might be funded. It was ultimately clear that the estimated $29,580 for this project was not available in any appropriate lines in the town's FY23 budget, and that it would be necessary to call a special town meeting if the town wanted to get the work done before next fiscal year (July 2023). Within the highway operations account (line 422), there is $17,500 in an internal sub account for storm damage (line 5520). This $17,500 was expended after the same July storm, including the clean-up of Wellman Road which was closed due to fallen trees. The special town meeting articles request that $29,580 be transferred from free cash to replenish this internal sub account within the general highway operations account. Bidwell Park will remain closed to the public unless and until the mess of downed trees is cleaned up.

### Recent Land Conservation Efforts

The State of Massachusetts has been busy this last month preparing to protect land in Monterey from development and making it available for all Massachusetts residents to enjoy. The plans involve three separate pieces of land within Monterey's borders.

The select board received notice on September 2 that, "The Commonwealth of Massachusetts, acting through its Department of Conservation and Recreation ("DCR"), has under consideration the acquisition of a 242± acre parcel of land located off Beartown Mountain Road in the Town of Monterey ("Town") and off Brace Road in the Town of Tyringham adjacent to Beartown State Forest. Approximately 105± acres are located in Monterey and approximately 137± acres are located in Tyringham. The property is currently primarily undeveloped woodland and used for open space. The proposed use for the property will be protected open space with public access." Contact Craig Cashman, DCR's Director of Government Affairs at Craig.R.Cashman@mass.gov if you have any questions.

In addition, the Department of Fish and Game notified us on August 30 that it is considering the purchase of conservation restrictions on two adjacent pieces of land along the north side of Mt. Hunger road, abutting a Monterey Land Trust property. The parcels are 269± acres and 193.68± acres respectively, and should the purchase be finalized would be available to the public for passive outdoor recreational opportunities.

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## Calendar

**Monterey Community Center** events on page 12.

**Saturday, October 8:**

Bidwell House talk, last of three-part series about gravestone making, 1 p.m. See page 29.

"Scary Stories Around the Fire," Bidwell House, 7 p.m. See page 29.

**Saturday, October 15:**

Autumn Mushroom Walk with John Wheeler, 10 a.m., MCC. See page 12.

Special town meeting, 1:30 p.m., firehouse pavilion. See page 2.

**Wednesday, October 12:** Movie night showing *Some Like It Hot*. 7 p.m., library. See page 28.

**Thursday, October 20:** Monterey Historical Society talk by Barbara Swann, "Township No. 1 in the Revolutionary War," 7 to 8 p.m., library. See page 21.

**Saturday, October 22:** Backyard Ecologist Series: Pollinator-friendly tips for winterizing your yard, Native Plants Working Group, 11 a.m., community center. See page 12.

**Tuesday, October 25:** Vaccination clinic, firehouse pavilion, 10 a.m. to noon. See page 28.

**Saturday, Ocober 29:** Knox Gallery opening reception for *Michele Arnot: Think Ink*. 7 to 8:30 p.m. See page 15.

**Sunday, October 30:** Peter Poirier in concert, 1 p.m., MCC. See page 12.

## Police Emergency Contacts

- For real emergencies, call **911**.
- The email address for the dispatch service is:

**dispatch@sdb.state.ma.us.**

- Police dispatch service number:

**(413) 236-0925**.

- For non-emergencies to contact the Monterey Police Department, call:

**528-3211**

*Young Girl,* Kit Patten


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## Monterey News

The *Monterey News* is an independent nonprofit corporation dedicated to fostering communication in the Monterey community. We invite signed letters, articles, drawings, poetry, and photographs. Submissions may be sent via email to montereynews9@gmail.com or to PO Box 9, Monterey, MA, 01245. For advertising rates or other information, contact the Editor at (413)528-4007 or email.

## Town Contact Information

**Emergency! 911**

**Town Administrator:**
528-1443 x111
admin@montereyma.gov
(for town boards and misc. questions)

**Assessor:** 528-1443 x115
assessors@montereyma.gov

**Building Department:** 528-1443 x118 buildingsafety@montereyma.gov

**Community Center:** 528-3600
calendar@ccmonterey.org

**Fire Department** (non-emergency): 528-3136
chief@montereyma.org

**Highway Department:** 528-1734
dpw1@montereyma.gov

**Library:** 528-3795
montereylibrary@gmail.com

**Police Department** (non-emergency)**:** 528-3211, Alt./Emergency 528-3211
mpdchief@montereyma.gov

**Post Office:** 528-4670

**SBRSD** (Schools): (413) 229-8778

**Tax Collector:** 528-1443 x117
montereytax@yahoo.com
(for questions about your tax bill)

**Town Clerk:** 528-1443 x113
clerk@montereyma.gov

Town website: Montereyma.gov, under each department, for office hours.

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Editor.....Stephen Moore
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Mailing Labels ..... Joe Baker
Treasurer ..... Cindy Hoogs

*Contributions from local artists this month: Rachel Jo Arnow, p. 17; Bob Horvath, p. 10; Bonner McAllester, p. 20; Kit Patten, p. 31*

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